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JW

Attorney Docket No. P23947**Mail Stop Amendment**

In re application of : Francois GIRARD et al.

Application No : 10/635, 600

Group Art Unit: 3618

Filed : August 7, 2003

Examiner : Bryan Fischmann

For : BINDING DEVICE WITH FRONT UNFASTENING

**Mail Stop Amendment**

Commissioner for Patents

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Amendment

Randolph Building

401 Dulany Street

Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is a **Reply To Restriction Requirement** in the above-captioned application.☐ Small Entity Status of this application under 37 C.F.R. 1.9 and 1.27 has been established by a previously filed statement.☐ A verified statement to establish small entity status under 37 C.F.R. 1.9 and 1.27 is enclosed.☐ An Information Disclosure Statement, PTO Form 1449, and references cited.☒ No additional fee is required.

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

Claims After Amendment	No. Claims Previously Paid For	Present Extra	Small Entity		Other Than A Small Entity	
			Rate	Fee	Rate	Fee
Total Claims: 16	*20	0	X25=	\$	x 50=	\$0.00
Indep. Claims: 1	**3	0	X100=	\$	X200=	\$0.00
Multiple Dependent Claims Presented			+180=	\$	+360=	\$0.00
Extension Fees for ____ Month(s)				\$		\$0.00
Total:				\$	Total:	\$0.00

☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. 19-0089 in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_.☐ N/A A Check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_ to cover the filing/extension fee(s) is included.☒ The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.☒ Any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16.☒ Any patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.17, including any required extension of time fees in any concurrent or future reply requiring a petition for extension of time for its timely submission (37 CFR 1.136)(a)(3).

James L. Rowland  
Reg. No. 32,674



Appln. No. 10/635,600

P23947.A03 (S 1019/US)

O I P E  
JUN 01 2005  
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

**PATENT APPLICATION**  
**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants	:	François GIRARD et al.	)	
			)	Group Art Unit 3618
Appln. No.	:	10/635,600	)	
			)	Examiner Bryan Fischmann
Docket No.	:	P23947	)	
			)	Confirmation No. 9581
Customer No.	:	07055	)	
			)	
Filed	:	August 7, 2003	)	
			)	
Title	:	BINDING DEVICE WITH	)	
		FRONT UNFASTENING	)	

**REPLY TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop **Amendment**  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In reply to the Office action dated May 11, 2005, in which a requirement for restriction was made between two species, Applicants elect the following:

**Species I – front and rear retaining system proximal a front end of a boot**  
**(Figs. 1-4)**

Claims 1-16 are “readable” on the elected invention, with at least claim 1 being generic.

In the Office action the Examiner offers comments regarding whether claim 1 is generic. Regarding the manner by which the species of Figs. 1-4 is movable, Applicants



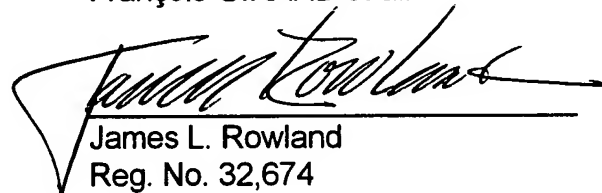
acknowledge the observation by the Examiner that paragraph 0018 of their specification is clearly applicable to the species of Figs. 1-4. Therefore, species I, for example, can be regarded as encompassing the disclosure of Figs. 1-4 (which focuses on the retention system) taken together with either of the embodiments of Figs. 8, 9 and Figs. 10, 11 (which focus on the movement of the retention system).

No fee is believed to be due at this time. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee required for acceptance of this reply as timely and/or complete to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Further, although no extension of time is believed to be necessary at this time, if it were to be found that an extension of time were necessary to render this reply timely and/or complete, Applicants request an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) in the necessary increment(s) of month(s) to render this reply timely and/or complete and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary extension of time fee under 37 CFR 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Any comments or questions concerning this application can be directed to the undersigned at the telephone or fax number given below.

Respectfully submitted,  
François GIRARD et al.



James L. Rowland  
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May 27, 2005  
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